Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

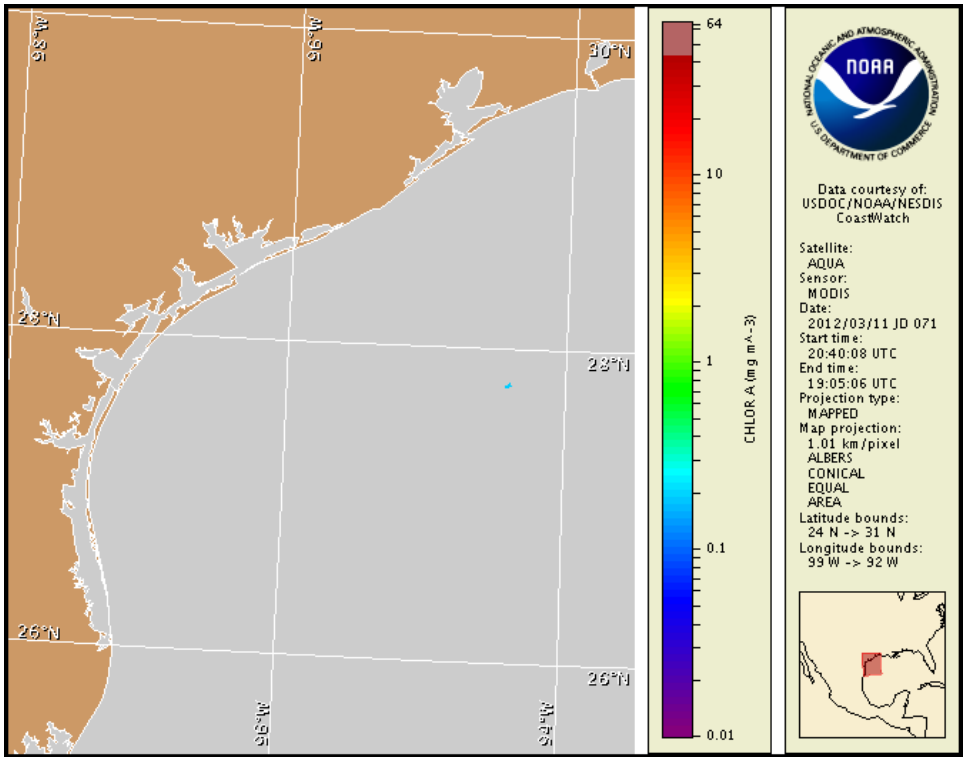
Monday, 12 March 2012

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, March 5, 2012



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from March 2 to 9 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

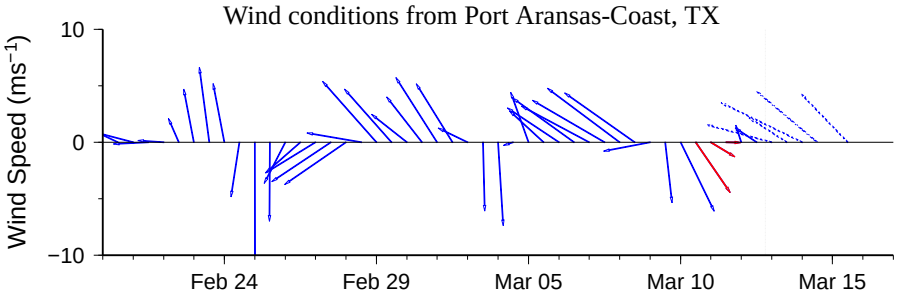
Conditions Report

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of Karenia brevis (Texas red tide) at the coast in Texas. No impacts are expected alongshore Texas today through Sunday, March 18. The harmful algae, Dinophysis, has been identified in the Port Aransas area. Dinophysis does not produce the respiratory irritation impacts associated with the Texas red tide caused by Karenia brevis. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) continues to monitor waters impacted by recent blooms of the harmful algae Karenia brevis (red tide) for safe shellfish harvesting. For information on area shellfish closures, contact DSHS.

Analysis

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of *Karenia brevis* at the coast in Texas. The Imaging FlowCytobot, located at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute pier in Port Aransas, identified very low concentrations of *Dinophysis* late last week (TAMU). No other reports of *Dinophysis* have been received from elsewhere along the Texas coast. Recent MODIS imagery is completely obscured by clouds, limiting analysis. In MODIS imagery from 3/7 (not shown), elevated chlorophyll (2-4 μg/L) is visible stretching from Port Aransas south of the Rio Grande. Elevated chlorophyll is not indicative of the presence of *K. brevis*; it is most likely due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments along the coast. Transport from Port Aransas cannot be estimated at this time as recent transport model data is not currently available.

Derner, Kavanaugh

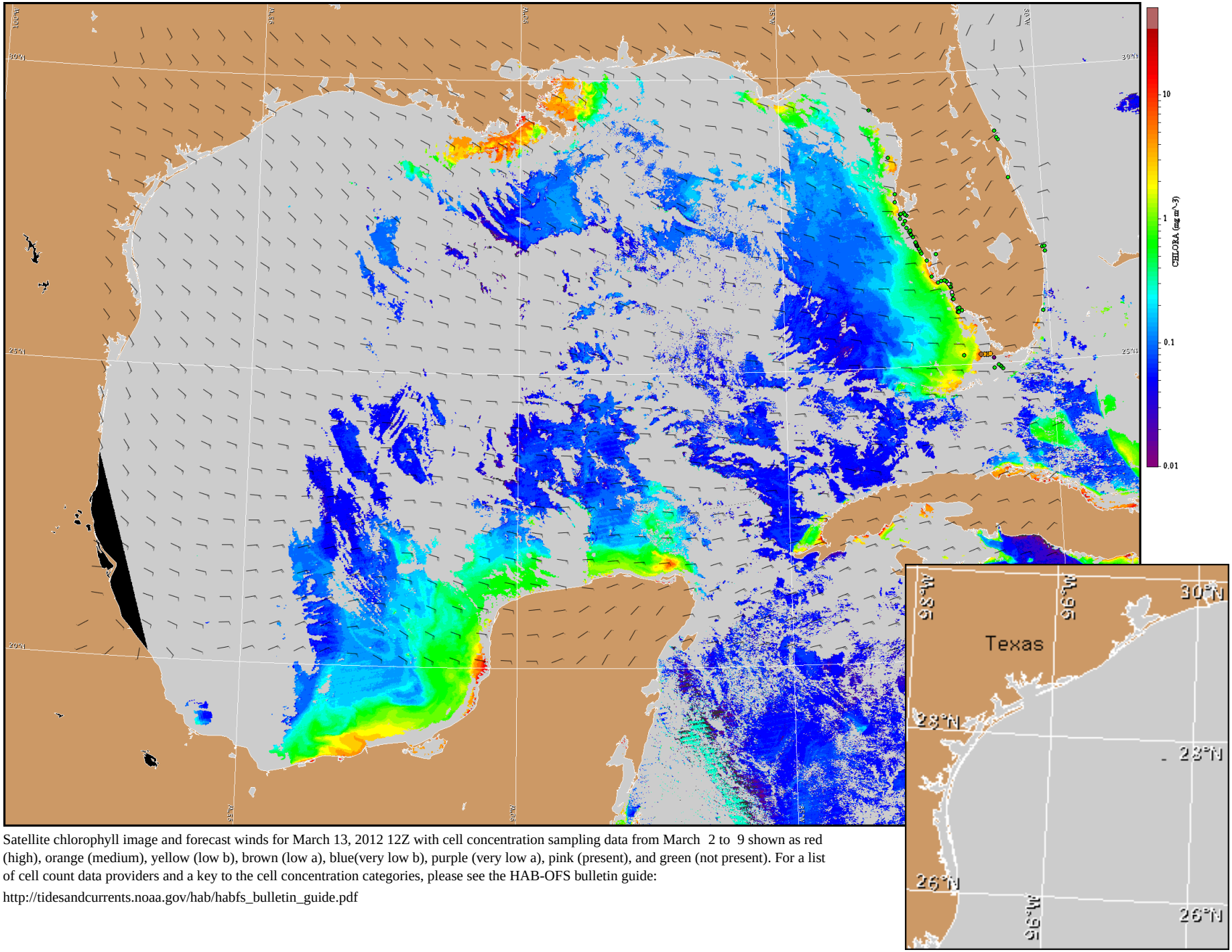


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Port Aransas: Southeast winds (10-20kn, 5-10m/s) today through Friday.

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive: http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 13, 2012 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from March 2 to 9 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).